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GENERAL DEBATE

EXAMINATION OF THE WORLD SITUATION WITH RESPECT TO DRUG ABUSE, INCLUDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL PROGRAMME OF ACTION: MEASURES TO CONTROL AND REDUCE ILLICIT TRAFFICKING

Reports of subsidiary bodies

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INTRODUCTION

1. The present document comprises three chapters. Chapter I covers matters which may require action by the Commission arising from a regional meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA) or of the Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East (Sub-Commission). Chapter II reproduces that chapter of each report of a subsidiary body which summarizes the trends in the illicit drug traffic in the region. Chapter III concerns the development of a regional drug law enforcement training strategy as requested by the Commission.

2. Four of the five subsidiary bodies of the Commission met during 1991: HONLEA, Africa, held its fourth meeting at Nairobi from 15 to 19 April 1991; HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, held its fourth meeting at Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, from 8 to 12 October 1991; the sixteenth meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, was held at Canberra from 28 October to 1 November 1991; and the twenty-eighth session of the Sub-Commission was convened at Tehran from 25 to 29 November 1991. HONLEA, Europe, did not meet in 1991.

3. In an attempt to comply better with a series of General Assembly resolutions concerning limitation of documentation, it is proposed, beginning with the 1992 session of the Commission, to issue the reports of the above meetings in the working language(s) of the respective subsidiary organs as conference room papers. Thus the participating States of the region will have available in the working languages a record of the meeting and of all the recommendations directed at Governments of the region. The Commission, on the other hand, will have before it in all official languages, an expose of those matters which may require action on its part or which should officially be brought to its attention. The complete reports of the subsidiary bodies are available to the Commission in documents E/CN.7/1992/CRP.3 through 6.

I. MATTERS REQUIRING ACTION BY THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS OR BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION

A. Fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa

4. The Fourth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, adopted two resolutions, contained in chapter I of its report (E/CN.7/1992/CRP.3), which are herewith brought to the attention of the Commission:

RESOLUTION I

Venue of future meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa

The Fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa,

Recalling that the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1988/15 of 25 May 1988, requested the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to convene the meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies at the capitals of States in the respective regions that may wish to act as host or at the headquarters of the regional commission concerned,

Aware that the General Assembly, in its resolutions 31/140, section I, of 17 December 1976 and 40/243, section I, of 18 December 1985, decided that United Nations bodies may hold sessions away from their established headquarters when a Government issuing an invitation for a session to be held within its territory has agreed to defray, after consultation with the Secretary-General as to their nature and possible extent, the actual additional costs directly or indirectly involved,

Noting that the capitals of many African States are located further from Geneva and Vienna than is Addis Ababa, that the meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies are serviced from Geneva and that the costs are calculated based on the distance of the venue from Geneva and Vienna,

Considering that strict adherence to General Assembly resolutions 31/140, section I, 40/243, section I, and 41/177 C, annex, of 5 December 1986 may lead to practices that unjustly penalize Governments of African States whose capitals are located further from Geneva and Vienna than is Addis Ababa,

Recognizing the additional benefit of holding meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies in capitals of States that are close to significant centres of illicit drug traffic,

Requests the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to endeavour to amend the procedure so that acting as host to a meeting of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, Africa, will no longer pose a greater financial burden to some States in the region than to others.

RESOLUTION II

Monitoring the implementation of recommendations of meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies

The Fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa,

Noting the efforts reported by participants attending the Fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, to implement recommendations adopted by the Third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held at Cairo from 4 to 8 June 1990 (see E/CN.7/1991/2 and Corr.1),

Encouraged by the progress made by States in the African region in implementing the recommendations adopted by the Third Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa,

Recognizing the need for a concerted effort by all States in the African region to implement such recommendations and thereby achieve greater effectiveness,

1. Urges States to report to future meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, Africa, on the extent to which they have been able to implement the recommendations adopted by the preceding meeting of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, Africa;

2. Requests the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to endorse the present resolution and to consider recommending the practice to other regional meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies;

3. Decides to evaluate further the implementation of the recommendations of the Third and Fourth Meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, at the Fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.

5. The Meeting approved, by consensus, specific recommendations emanating from the working groups established by the Meeting. These are contained in paragraphs 45 (a)-(e), 47 (a)-(g), 51 (a)-(f), 63 (a)-(f) and 65 (a)-(g), of the report of the Meeting. Since those recommendations are all addressed to Governments of the region they are brought to the Commission's attention only.

6. The matter raised in Resolution I above is examined in detail in document E/CN.7/1992/4 (implementation of CND resolution 1(XXXIV)) in relation to the financial implications of meetings of subsidiary bodies. In the light of that additional information, the Commission may wish to instruct UNDCP as to how it wishes to respond to the request contained in Resolution I.

7. As will be seen in the report referred to in the preceding paragraph, the subsidiary bodies have recently included an item on each of their agendas to review the implementation of recommendations from previous meetings. In the spirit of paragraph 2 of resolution II above, the Commission may wish to endorse the inclusion of such an agenda item as a matter of general practice.

B. Fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean

8. The Fourth Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, approved by consensus specific recommendations emanating from the working groups established by the Meeting. These are contained in paragraphs 37 (a)-(j), 38 (a)-(e), 39 (a)-(j) and 40 (a)-(g) of the report (E/CN.7/CRP.4). Insofar as those recommendations are addressed to Governments of the region, they are brought to the attention of the Commission for information only. Recommendations 38 (a) and 39 (j), which refer directly to UNDCP, are reproduced below.

Recommendation 38(a)

"Countries which had not yet approved legislation for the control of chemicals frequently used in the clandestine manufacture of cocaine, heroin and other illicit drugs should do so as soon as possible, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/40, using as one of their references the model regulations to control precursors and substances, machines and materials, recommended by the Organization of American States. In this regard States were invited to seek juridical assistance from UNDCP should they consider this reasonable."

Recommendation 39(j)

"UNDCP should be requested to study new mechanisms for financial cooperation with a view to strengthening and expanding communications and control networks, including drug detection equipment, throughout the region."

9. In view of the fact that the foregoing recommendations, if acted on, could have programme budget implications for UNDCP, the Commission may wish to give policy guidance on their implementation.

C. Sixteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific

10. The Sixteenth Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, adopted the following recommendation, contained in chapter I of its report (E/CN.7/1992/CRP.5), which is herewith brought to the attention of the Commission:

> The Meeting recognized the value, in combating illicit drug trafficking, of measures to trace assets derived from such traffic and their subsequent confiscation. In order to be fully effective, the Meeting considered it necessary for all States and territories to act together, in as uniform a manner as possible, by adopting national legislation in line with the relevant articles of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988, and in conducting comprehensive investigations. In this connection, the Meeting took note that many States and territories of the region faced difficulties in conducting investigations in money-laundering offences in a sufficiently vigorous manner due to the lack of expertise and resources and, accordingly, recommended that:
>
> (a) States in the region of Asia and the Pacific with the required capability should, as a matter of urgent priority, provide assistance to the enforcement agencies of States and territories, at their request, through specialist training and active assistance in conducting investigations;
>
> (b) States and territories in need of assistance should take advantage of the assistance available;
>
> (c) The United Nations International Drug Control Programme and other international and regional organizations should support this initiative.

11. Specific recommendations emanating from the working groups established by the Meeting are contained in paragraphs 69 (a)-(k), 71 (a)-(i), 73 (a)-(h) and 78 (a)-(e) of the report of the Meeting. The Meeting approved those recommendations by consensus. Insofar as those recommendations are addressed to Governments of the region, they are brought to the attention of the Commission for information only. Recommendation 73(h) refers directly to UNDCP and is reproduced below.

> Recommendations 73(h)
>
> "UNDCP should advise States on the procedures, practices and principles relating to controlled delivery."

12. In view of the fact that the foregoing recommendation, if acted on, could have programme budget implications for UNDCP, the Commission may wish to give policy guidance on its implementation.

D. Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East

13. At its twenty-eighth session, the Sub-Commission approved two draft decisions, contained in chapter I of its report (E/CN.7/1992/CRP.6), for submission to the Commission in connection with an application for membership and the periodicity and venue of its meetings. These are before the Commission in paragraph 16 below. The Sub-Commission also adopted a number of recommendations which are brought to the attention of the Commission in paragraphs 17-19 below. In addition, the Commission is seized of the question of the venue, dates and draft agenda of the ministerial-level meeting to be convened in the region pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/42. This question is before the Commission in paragraph 20 below.

14. Draft decision I below should be considered in the light of the Sub-Commission's discussions reflected in paragraphs 57 and 58 of its report, which read as follows:

> "57. The observer for Iraq informed the Meeting of the request of his Government to become a member of the Sub-Commission. Several participants expressed support for the request of Iraq. One speaker stated that, while he would personally welcome the idea of Iraq becoming a member of the Sub-Commission, he had no instructions from his Government on the issue; the decision of his Government would be made known at a later date.
>
> 58. The Meeting agreed that the Secretariat should prepare a draft decision on the request for membership for submission through the Commission to the Economic and Social Council."

15. Draft decision II below should be considered in the light of the Sub-Commission's discussions reflected in paragraph 59 of its report, which reads as follows:

> "59. Several speakers commented on the periodicity and duration of the sessions of the Sub-Commission. There was agreement that in view of the extended membership of the Sub-Commission all future sessions should be of a duration of five days. The two-day session of the Sub-Commission which had, up to now, been held just prior to the session of the Commission was now considered to be of too short a duration to produce any fruitful results. The Meeting agreed that that second annual session of the Sub-Commission should be discontinued, and that in future the Sub-Commission should hold one session each year in the region of the Sub-Commission. The secretariat was requested to prepare the necessary draft decision for consideration by the Commission and the the Economic and Social Council."

(i) Draft decisions to be recommended by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for adoption by the Economic and Social Council

16. The Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East recommends to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs the approval of the following draft decisions:

DRAFT DECISION I

Membership of the Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

"At its .... plenary meeting, on .....1992, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of the report of the Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East at its twenty-eighth session and the relevant part of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its thirty-fifth session, decided to approve the application by Iraq for membership in the Sub-Commission."

DRAFT DECISION II

Annual Meeting of the Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

"At its .... plenary meeting, on .....1992, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of the report of the Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East at its twenty-eighth session and the relevant part of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its thirty-fifth session, decided that in future the Sub-Commission will, in principle, meet once annually, for a period of five days, in one of the countries of the region."

(ii) Recommendation adopted by the Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East

17. The Sub-Commission, at its twenty-eighth session, adopted the following recommendation on training needs within its region:

Considering the different training needs of the law enforcement agencies of the members of the Sub-Commission, particularly in two subregional groups of members, one being the Arabic-speaking members and the other being Afghanistan, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and Turkey, it is recommended that:

(a) A subregional training centre such as the Arab Security Studies and Training Centre at Riyadh should be established or designated at Tehran;

(b) An annual "refresher" training seminar should be held in the region of the Sub-Commission, to be attended by officers already trained as trainers, to ensure that training courses contain relevant and up-to-date information on illicit traffic developments and methods utilized by traffickers, as well as new techniques for combating illicit traffic;

(c) The "refresher" seminar should be coordinated by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, in conjunction with the International Criminal Police Organization and the Customs Co-operation Council, in order to incorporate, inter alia, relevant material from other regions.

The recommendation was adopted by consensus on the understanding that other subregional training centres could in the future be established in other countries of the region and that training seminars could be held in any of the States members of the Sub-Commission.

18. Other recommendations emanating from the working groups established by the Sub-Commission are contained in paragraphs 29 (a)-(g), 32 (a)-(l), 33 (a)-(i) and 38 (a)-(h) of the report of the Meeting. The Sub-Commission approved those recommendations by consensus. Insofar as these recommendations are addressed only to Governments of the region, they are brought to the attention of the Commission for information only. Recommendations 32 (e), (h) and (i), and 33 (c), (d) and (i), which refer directly to UNDCP, are reproduced below:

Recommendation 32(e)

"UNDCP is requested to consult with ICPO/Interpol and CCC with a view to the early production of a handbook or other guidance on the use of controlled delivery."

Recommendation 32(h)

"To assist the members of the Sub-Commission in establishing an effective system of contact persons or contact points for their drug law enforcement authorities, UNDCP, in conjunction with ICPO/Interpol and CCC, should be requested to propose such a system. All members of the Sub-Commission should then contribute to and utilize this system."

Recommendation 32(i)

"Recognizing the benefits of mutual legal assistance arrangements in accordance with articles 7 to 10 of the 1988 Convention, UNDCP is requested to consider the arrangement of seminars for groups of neighbouring countries to assist and encourage the early completion and implementation of such mutual assistance."

Recommendation 33(c)

"UNDCP is requested to hold training courses on the identification of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including fenetylline."

Recommendation 33(d)

"UNDCP is requested to hold training courses on law enforcement, using the new United Nations Drug Law Enforcement Training Manual, in regard to seizures, investigations, the controlled delivery of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and the exchange of information."

Recommendation 33(i)

"UNDCP is requested to prepare a comprehensive and detailed report on the manufacture and storage of and traffic in (fenetylline) with a view to its submission for consideration by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the adoption of a resolution concerning the above-mentioned points."

19. In view of the fact that the foregoing recommendations, if acted on, could have programme budget implications for UNDCP, the Commission may wish to give policy guidance on their implementation.

(iii) Ministerial-level meeting to be convened pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/42

20. In paragraph 2 of its resolution 1991/42 of 21 June 1991, the Economic and Social Council requested

"the Secretary-General to convene a meeting at the ministerial level in the Near and Middle East to enhance the effectiveness of regional cooperation by considering the early implementation of the recommendations arising from the Sub-Commission at its twenty-eighth session, particularly in respect of transit routes, including the Balkan route."

This matter was examined by the Sub-Commission under item 8 of its agenda.

21. That part of the Sub-Commission report which is relevant to the ministerial-level meeting is contained in paragraphs 52-55. They read as follows:

"52. At its 8th meeting, on 28 November 1991, the Sub-Commission considered item 8 of its agenda: "Ministerial-level meeting in the Near and Middle East to enhance the effectiveness of regional cooperation in matters relating to illicit traffic and drug abuse".

53. The Chairman of the Meeting read a letter from the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in which the Government offered to act as host to the ministerial-level meeting in 1992. The Sub-Commission thanked the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for its kind offer and decided to refer the matter to the Commission.

54. One speaker, while expressing his appreciation for the offer by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to act as host to the ministerial- level meeting, considered that the choice of the venue for the meeting should be decided at the twenty-ninth session of the Sub-Commission or at the thirty-fifth session of the Commission. Another speaker considered it desirable for the next meeting to be hosted by one of the more recent members of the Sub-Commission which had not yet acted as host to a meeting of the Sub-Commission.

55. The Meeting took note that the recommendations adopted at its twenty-eighth session would constitute the basis for discussions at the ministerial-level meeting as requested by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1991/42. In this connection, the Meeting requested the secretariat to prepare a draft agenda for the ministerial-level meeting for consideration by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs."

22. In the light of the foregoing the Commission should (i) consider the offer of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the ministerial-level meeting; (ii) establish the venue and dates of the meeting; (iii) approve the draft provisional agenda of the meeting; (iv) give any additional instructions to UNDCP in connection with the meeting.

23. Further to the request contained in paragraph 55 of the report of the Sub-Commission, reproduced above in paragraph 21, the Secretariat has drawn up a draft provisional agenda for the meeting, which is before the Commission in an addendum to the present document (E/CN.7/1992/3/Add.1).

II. CURRENT SITUATION AND MOST RECENT TRENDS IN ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFIC

A. Africa

24. Most of the speakers spoke on item 3 and presented reports on the situation prevailing in their countries. There was general agreement that the African region was faced with a major threat stemming from the problems of drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking. Several African countries were vulnerable to transit traffic in illicit drugs, particularly heroin, amphetamines, methaqualone and, to a lesser extent, cocaine. Transit traffic had contributed to local abuse. The region remained a major market for cannabis, psychotropic substances and heroin; the abuse of inhalants and solvents was considered to be a growing problem in some countries, particularly among the young. Several speakers drew attention to the alarming increase in heroin abuse in several countries in Africa. Several representatives reported record seizures, particularly of cannabis, heroin, amphetamines and methaqualone, and the arrest and prosecution of an increasing number of persons for drug-related offences.

25. Cannabis, in various forms, continued to be one of the most abused drugs in most of the countries of the African region. Its abuse was reported to be on the rise in several countries; two representatives reported a decrease in cannabis abuse and seizures in their countries. Cannabis was grown in most African countries; much of the locally grown cannabis was intended for local and intraregional illicit markets. Some cannabis from the African region, in particular cannabis and its derivatives from Morocco, were also found on international illicit markets. The Meeting was informed that Lebanon and Pakistan were two major sources of cannabis resin being shipped to and through Egypt to other African countries.

26. Several speakers reported the large-scale destruction of cannabis plants. As a result of effective law enforcement operations against illicit cannabis cultivation, cannabis plants had, in some countries, tended to be more carefully concealed and protected than before, often located in remote areas or in dense forests or grown alongside staple crops, thus making their detection and eradication even more difficult. The eradication of cannabis cultivation was reported in Chad, Egypt, Kenya and the Sudan.

27. In spite of more effective law enforcement action, illicit drug traffickers continued to target Africa as a transit region and an illicit market for opium and heroin. Most of the heroin seized originated in South-East and South-West Asia though a smaller amount was from the Middle East. One major trend was the importation of large quantities of heroin by Ghanaian and Nigerian trafficking networks primarily into Accra and Lagos for

subsequent re-export to illicit markets in non-African countries via other exit points in Africa. Mention was also made of seizures in Egypt of large quantities of heroin that had been shipped by air from Turkey to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and by road transport from there to Egypt. The Meeting was informed of the eradication of opium cultivation in Egypt, Kenya and the Sudan. The attention of the Meeting was drawn to the threat that the illicit cultivation of the opium poppy posed to the region.

28. Several representatives reported increases in seizures and the availability of, and the demand for, cocaine. Commercial aeroplanes flying from South America to Abidjan, Dakar, Lagos and Casablanca constituted the major direct cocaine supply route. From those entry points, cocaine was distributed to other countries in Africa and elsewhere, mostly in Western Europe. It was reported that ships were being more frequently used to carry large quantities of cocaine. The observer for the International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO/Interpol) informed the Meeting of the recent seizure of 500 kilograms of heroin by the authorities of Cape Verde. The representative of Gabon stated that cocaine was reaching his country from Abidjan, Dakar and Lagos by fishing vessel. The representative of Ghana said that, in view of the availability of cocaine and the necessary precursors, crack constituted a major potential threat to his country.

29. The representatives of several countries reported on the increased rate in the abuse and illicit traffic of psychotropic substances. For example, in Algeria the rate of increase in the abuse of psychotropic substances had surpassed that of cannabis. Several speakers reported the illicit manufacture of amphetamines and barbiturates, particularly methaqualone, in clandestine laboratories.

30. The representatives of several States in eastern Africa drew attention to the increase in the scale of the illicit traffic in methaqualone, in the form of Mandrax tablets, from India to eastern Africa, particularly Kenya, transiting through the southern African States to South Africa. The representative of Zimbabwe reported the seizure of 40 million tablets of Mandrax manufactured in India and destined for South Africa. The view was expressed that a regional meeting of all States affected by the illicit traffic in Mandrax tablets, including the major producer and consumer State, should be organized under the aegis of the United Nations to deal with the problem.

31. Several speakers from countries in western and central Africa referred to the increased illicit traffic in amphetamines in tablet form. Amphetamine tablets, of which pemoline was the most common, were being sold for the equivalent of $US 0.17 per tablet.

32. Several speakers drew attention to a problem that had arisen as a result of the diversion of large quantities of psychotropic substances, particularly secobarbital, methaqualone and pemoline, from the licit market, often by forging import permits. Such diversion had considerably increased the availabillity of psychotropic substances on the illicit market. One related problem was the great variety of psychotropic substances sold as medicine by vendors on the illicit market without prescription or medical supervision. The role of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) in assisting States in preventing the diversion of controlled substances to the illicit market was emphasized.

33. Most speakers commented on the routes and the modus operandi adopted by illicit drug traffickers. Illicit trafficking in Africa, which was dominated by illicit traffic in cannabis, was largely by road, by rail, by waterway and, to a lesser extent, by air. The route for heroin from South-East and South-West Asia was Lagos-Cairo-Karachi-Dubai-Cairo-Lagos, with variations through Nairobi and Addis Ababa to Bombay and other destinations such as Bangkok.

34. There was general agreement that internal body concealment and false luggage compartments and linings continued to be among the most frequently used means of illicit trafficking, particularly in heroin. Airline passengers of different nationalities, using body or luggage concealment, continued to be frequently used as couriers, particularly in the illicit traffic in heroin from South-East and South-West Asia. The Meeting deplored the increased involvement of African nationals as couriers in the illicit traffic in heroin.

35. Some participants reported seizures of significant quantities of illicit drugs shipped from overseas in the mail. Mail bags shipped from India and containing large quantities of Mandrax had been intercepted in Kenya in October 1990; the seizure in Malawi of postal parcels containing illicit drugs was also noted. Some speakers stated that large consignments of illicit drugs, notably cannabis, methaqualone tablets and, to a lesser extent, heroin, were being concealed among legitimate exports in containers. Mention was made of the seizure of large consignments of Mandrax tablets in containers being shipped through Mozambique and Zimbabwe to South Africa. Large seizures were made of illicit drugs in unaccompanied luggage addressed to unknown consignees. Mention was also made of the recent interception of illicit consignments of cannabis en route from Kenya to the Seychelles as unaccompanied luggage on Kenyan airliners.

36. Several speakers referred to the problem of falsified passports and travel documents used by drug couriers, particularly those from West Africa. Several couriers arrested in Kenya had had several passports in their possession for use on different parts of the journey in order to conceal their itinerary. The view was expressed that more attention should be given to obtaining information on the identity of the employers, suppliers and other contacts of arrested couriers travelling with falsified travel documents, together with the methods used to recruit such couriers. It was agreed that such information should be communicated to the law enforcement authorities in the couriers' country of origin.

37. The Meeting noted the important role played by organized criminal networks in Africa in the illicit traffic in drugs, particularly heroin. Organized drug trafficking syndicates involved in the illicit traffic in heroin appeared to have access to other illicit drug trafficking syndicates in other parts of the world, such as those in South-East and South-West Asia, their suppliers of heroin. The observer for ICPO/Interpol informed the Meeting that investigations had highlighted the active involvement of European organized crime circles in the illicit traffic in cannabis in sub-Saharan Africa. He stated that that new dimension in illicit traffic in Africa might lead to an increase in illicit production, financed by the more substantial resources available to European organized crime circles. He noted that the risk of such a development had been evident for some years with regard to the illicit traffic in cannabis resin from Morocco, the import and distribution of which was controlled by European criminal organizations, mostly British, French, German and Spanish.

38. Several speakers described factors that made them vulnerable to illicit traffic. The view was expressed that illicit drug traffickers were using African countries as transit points because of the weak detection capabilities and lack of specially trained personnel in those countries. The need for further training in drug detection techniques and in drug identification was emphasized.

39. Several participants informed the Meeting of measures taken by their Governments to cope with the deteriorating situation regarding the illicit traffic in and abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Some speakers stated that, in view of the lack of reliable information on the scale and extent of drug abuse, epidemiological studies to assess the pattern and extent of drug abuse were being undertaken.

40. Several participants described new comprehensive approaches to drug prevention and the treatment, rehabilitation and social integration of drug abusers. Some stated that campaigns to raise public awareness of the dangers of illicit traffic and drug abuse had been initiated at the national level.

B. Latin America and the Caribbean

41. It was observed that the annual reports for 1990 and 1991 submitted to the Secretary-General by Governments, in compliance with the international drug control treaties, indicated an increase in the seizures of cannabis, cocaine, heroin, morphine, other opiates and psychotropic substances in most countries of the region.

42. Several speakers addressed this item of the agenda and presented reports on the situation prevailing in their countries. There was general agreement that the region continued to face a major threat from the problems of illicit drug traffic and abuse, particularly with regard to cocaine and cannabis. Several countries were vulnerable to transit traffic in cocaine which had, in some cases, contributed to abuse. In that regard, it was mentioned that the number of "crack houses" in townships in Jamaica had increased considerably.

43. The United States remained the major illicit market for cocaine, with 104 tonnes seized in 1990. Several speakers reported record seizures in 1990 and 1991 of cocaine and of substances used for its illicit manufacture. Some 112 tonnes of cocaine had been seized in Mexico between December 1988 and July 1991.

44. International law enforcement efforts, particularly in Canada, Colombia, Mexico and the United States during the first half of 1990, significantly disrupted illicit traffic in cocaine from South America to the United States, leading to reduced availability, higher prices and lower purity. Traffickers had, however, found the means to move several tonnes of cocaine into the United States. Prices had stabilized at both wholesale and street levels, and purity was high in most parts of Canada and the United States. Purity at the wholesale and retail sale level in the United States had increased respectively by 4 and 10 percentage points, respectively, during the first six months of 1991. Furthermore, while prices of cocaine in the United States ranged between $US 11,000 and $US 40,000 per kilogram in both 1990 and 1991, there had been a significant drop in cocaine prices in several major metropolitan areas in the United States. One speaker indicated that whereas previously most cocaine seizures in Canada involved relatively small quantities carried by individual couriers, the current trend was increasingly towards large multi-kilogram seizures, even running into hundreds of kilograms.

45. In order to reduce the added costs arising from law enforcement operations, drug traffickers were constantly seeking alternative markets and trying to diversify their processing operations in different countries of the region. It was noted that drug traffickers were manufacturing large quantities of cocaine hydrochloride in Peru whereas they had previously produced coca paste. It was also observed that cocaine was no longer being manufactured in Colombia by processing the alkaloid at large clandestine industrial complexes located in forest regions. It was now being manufactured in small laboratories strategically located in inaccessible areas and along the country's borders. Drug trafficking organizations were constantly seeking alternative arrangements to ensure continued manufacture of cocaine. Such arrangements had included moving to areas along the borders of Colombia and setting up manufacturing sites in neighbouring countries. It was pointed out that Argentina was currently affected by cocaine abuse following the displacement of activities (including processing and money-laundering operations) of the cocaine cartels from Colombia to Argentina. The processing of coca paste was reported to have increased along the border between Ecuador and Colombia as well as on the northern border of Argentina.

46. The Meeting was informed of trends in illicit traffic in cocaine in France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Consumption of cocaine had increased over 100 per cent in Western Europe. One speaker referred to a new trend: importing coca paste for further processing in Western Europe so as to benefit from the lower prices and availability of substances used for its illicit manufacture.

47. Several speakers referred to the measures taken by their Governments to address the deteriorating situation with regard to illicit trafic in cocaine. The fight against illicit drug trafficking was a reason of state and a national priority in Bolivia. Reference was made to the adoption of comprehensive strategies to address the situation. These were based on alternative development, prohibition of drug production and illicit traffic as well as on prevention programmes. Stringent measures to address illicit coca cultivation and processing and the manufacture of cocaine through effective control of precursors had been adopted. The implementation of such measures had, in some countries, involved the navy, army and air force. Positive results had been obtained. Several clandestine laboratories had been located and destroyed, large quantities of illicit drugs and substances used in their illicit manufacture had been seized and several drug trafficking operations had been disrupted. Novel initiatives had also been undertaken. In this connection, reference was made to Supreme Decree 22881 of 21 July 1991, by which the authorities in Bolivia fixed a time-limit in which persons who had committed drug trafficking offences could give themselves up to the authorities, with a guarantee of a just sentence and no extradition.

48. Cannabis, in various forms, continued to be one of the most commonly abused drugs. While cannabis continued to be smuggled into Canada by air and land conveyances, maritime smuggling operations, involving multi-tonne shipments, dominated the illicit traffic scene. They accounted for 90 per cent of cannabis seizures in 1990. In the United States, seizures of cannabis from indoor growing operations during 1990 reached a record level. Furthermore, the tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) content of cannabis increased by an average of 3.3 per cent compared with 2 per cent during the late 1970s and early 1980s. It was reported that illicit cultivation of cannabis constituted a growing problem in Mexico on account of favourable climatic conditions, particularly on the Pacific coast. The United States was an important illicit

market with illicit consignments crossing the United States-Mexico border in specially designed vehicles. A total of 1,467 tonnes of cannabis was seized by Mexican authorities between December 1988 and July 1991.

49. South-east and south-west Asia and Mexico were the major sources of heroin found on the illicit market in the United States. South-east Asia, Lebanon and south-west Asia were the main sources of heroin in Canada.

50. Recent trends and development in the region indicated that two countries in the region - Colombia and Guatemala - were potential sources of heroin for the region, particularly for the United States. Some speakers expressed concern at the appearance and expansion of large-scale opium poppy cultivation in the Andean region, particularly in Colombia. A representative said that in his country the yield from opium poppy cultivation was more lucrative than the yield from the cultivation of the coca plant. The Meeting's attention was drawn to the implications of illicit traffic in heroin replacing the illicit traffic in cocaine, particularly since climatic conditions in most countries of the region appeared to be favourable to opium poppy cultivation. One speaker indicated that specific measures were being taken to forestall the development of a market for opium and its derivatives in Colombia.

51. A new trend in the United States and Canada was the predominance, particularly since 1989, of heroin of south-east Asian origin and the decrease in seizures of heroin of south-west Asian origin. The current illicit traffic in heroin was characterized by the predominance of high-purity retail heroin of south-east Asian origin in a number of cities along the east coast.

52. Several speakers reported on the increased illicit manufacture of amphetamines and barbiturates, as well as methaqualone, in clandestine laboratories. Clandestine laboratory seizures in the United States had declined significantly in 1990.

53. The supply of "ice", a highly addictive form of methamphetamine, was reported to be increasing in California, particularly in the "Koreatown" section of Los Angeles. It was noted that trafficking in and abuse of phencyclidine (PCP) in the United States had escalated significantly from 1981 through 1985, particularly among minors. The view was expressed that the illicit demand for PCP had been affected by the widespread availability of cocaine.

54. Some speakers commented on the routes and modus operandi of drug traffickers. The main routes used for illicit traffic in cocaine to the United States were, first, to the east through the Caribbean islands and, second, to the west, via Central America and Mexico. The Caribbean region continued to be used as major transshipment and transit points for cocaine shipments to the United States and Europe. The increasing quantities of cocaine seizures and the variety of routes and methods of concealment employed point to the growing importance to the drug cartels of Canada for purposes of transshipment to the United States, in addition to Canada's being an important market in its own right. Italy and Spain were the two major European destinations of cocaine from South America. The decline in the number of Nigerian couriers in illicit traffic in cocaine and the increase in the number of couriers from Caribbean countries to Europe, particularly the United Kingdom, were noted.

55. Organized international criminal drug networks continued to play an important role in illicit drug traffic in the region, particularly with respect to cocaine. The increasing professionalism of organized drug trafficking groups at the international level and at the distribution phases constituted a major challenge to drug law enforcement operations. Illicit traffic in cocaine to the United States was currently controlled by two Colombian organizations: the Medellin and Cali cartels. There was, however, increasing evidence that Peruvian and Bolivian drug trafficking syndicates, as well as other other criminal groups, were expanding their cocaine trafficking operations in consumer countries, particularly Canada and the United States. With regard to heroin, it was pointed out that wholesale and mid-level heroin distribution and trafficking in the United States and Canada were dominated by ethnic groups with ties to the source countries. Major south-east Asian trafficking organizations supervised the movement of heroin from that region into Canada and the United States, where New York remained the main import and distribution point, with San Francisco, Seattle, Los Angeles and Washington, D.C., as secondary entry points.

56. The distribution network for methamphetamine ("ice") remained largely controlled by ethnic Asian groups that distributed primarily within their own communities. The distribution of LSD was tightly controlled by a few sophisticated California-based criminal organizations which had operated with relative impunity for over 20 years. The San Francisco Bay area was the main distribution area.

57. Several speakers pointed to the factors which made their countries vulnerable to illicit drug traffic. The view was expressed that the unfavourable economic situation and particularly the low standard of living and poverty of farmers in areas of illicit coca cultivation constituted a major obstacle. Furthermore, illicit traffic in cocaine was often associated with subversive movements, as in the case of the Shining Path Movement in Peru. Some speakers called for international economic assistance, particularly from consumer countries, to support their efforts to combat illicit drug traffic.

58. Several participants informed the Meeting of measures taken by their Governments to cope with the deteriorating situation regarding illicit traffic in and abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Several speakers pointed to bilateral and multilateral agreements concluded with a view to addressing all the phases of illicit traffic in both producer and consumer countries.

59. Many speakers observed that abuse of illicit drugs, particularly cocaine, had increased significantly and constituted a serious threat to the fabric of society. They emphasized the importance of comprehensive approaches in dealing with prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and social integration. Some participants indicated that campaigns to increase public awareness of the dangers of illicit traffic and drug abuse had been initiated in their countries. One speaker referred to significant declines in cocaine-abuse indicators in his country during 1991 as a result of a combination of law enforcement, prevention and drug-education programmes.

C. Asia and the Pacific

60. All members and some observers addressed this item and presented detailed reports on the current situation in drug trafficking and drug abuse prevailing in their countries which continued to face a major threat from the problems arising therefrom. Several speakers expressed great concern at the escalation of the problem in the region which constituted a grave threat to national security, economic stability and social order. Some presented their countries as vulnerable to transit traffic in illicit drugs due to their geographical position in relation to producer and consumer countries. The spillover of transit traffic, particularly of heroin, had aggravated the internal drug abuse problem in several countries. The region remained a major producer and market for cannabis, psychotropic substances, particularly amphetamine and methamphetamine, and opiates, particularly heroin. Several speakers reported on increased seizures of illicit drugs and the arrest and prosecution of an increasing number of persons of different nationalities for drug-related offences. The Meeting was informed that increased enforcement had led to a marked decline in international drug trafficking in Malaysia during 1991. No significant arrest or seizure had been made.

61. Most speakers indicated that their countries continued to be adversely affected by illicit traffic in opium and heroin from south-east Asia (Golden Triangle) and/or south-west Asia (Golden Crescent). Illicit consignments of opium had been intercepted in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Thailand and Viet Nam. Opium was the main drug of abuse in Viet Nam. The Republic of Korea was said to be facing a new problem of illicit traffic in opium from China; some 17 cases of opium trafficking had been detected since 1990.

62. Heroin was readily available in most countries of the region. Heroin was currently being trafficked in large volumes through the border areas of Afghanistan and the tribal areas of Pakistan and its abuse had penetrated every stratum of society. It was observed that whereas Pakistan was free of heroin abuse in 1979 there were currently over one million heroin abusers in that country.

63. A new trend in the United States was the predominance, since 1989, of heroin of south-east Asian origin and the decline in the availability of heroin from south-west Asia. In 1990 heroin of south-east Asian origin accounted for 56 per cent of heroin compared with 14 per cent in 1985. Wholesale and mid-level distribution and trafficking in heroin in the United States were dominated by ethnic groups with ties to the source countries. Major south-east Asian drug trafficking criminal organizations continued to oversee the movement of south-east Asian heroin into the United States.

64. Prices and purity of heroin ranged considerably. Purity had improved significantly in the United States, averaging 20 per cent at the retail level in 1990 compared with less than 10 per cent in the early 1980s. The retail price range for one gram in Australia was the equivalent of $US 120-150 in 1990 (the same as in 1988), after having reached a peak of $US 320-550 in 1989. Prices of opium and heroin were reported to have increased in the Islamic Republic of Iran during 1991 as a result of strict law enforcement action. There was, however, a great variation in prices between urban areas located in the central provinces and those located along the eastern borders.

65. International illicit traffic in heroin from south-east Asia was dominated by ethnic Chinese, some of whom were based in or connected with Hong Kong. During the last ten years they had targeted Australia, the United States and Western Europe as major markets using Hong Kong, as well as Singapore, as transit points and financial markets to launder their illicit gains. Japan and the Philippines were increasingly being used as transit points for illicit traffic in heroin from south-east Asia to the United States and Europe.

66. The Meeting was informed of the initiatives of the Government of Myanmar to address the problem of illicit opium poppy cultivation located on its border areas which had been, for a considerable time, controlled by insurgent groups in collusion with international drug trafficking syndicates. The manufacture of heroin in clandestine laboratories had been a major source of funds for the insurgent groups. The processing and manufacture of heroin in Myanmar had facilitated the illicit traffic in heroin from the Golden Triangle. Current operational success was reported against the illicit cultivation and processing of the opium poppy in the border areas of Myanmar during 1990 and 1991. The involvement of the army in combating illicit traffic had led to the the eradication of opium poppy fields, the destruction of heroin refineries, and the seizure of opium, heroin, drug paraphernalia and precursors.

67. Intensified drug law enforcement efforts in Thailand had resulted in the eradication of narcotic crops, neutralization of clandestine laboratories, disruption of trafficking networks and the seizure of narcotic drugs and precursors. It was noted that 4,000 hectares of illict opium poppy cultivation had been eradicated during 1991.

68. The border between India and Pakistan continued to be extremely vulnerable to illicit traffic in opiates and cannabis resin. It was observed that trafficers were avoiding using India as a transit route as a result of the strict law enforcement measures taken in both countries, preferring to use the Balkan route to Europe instead. This had also led to a decline in the quantity of heroin seized in border areas and metropolitan cities and a significant increase in the number of seizures. One delegate stated that he did not believe the two matters were connected.

69. The Meeting was informed of a decline in the seizure of heroin and an increase in the street prices in 1991 in Sri Lanka, mainly as a result of increased law enforcement action in the coastal areas of south India. This had affected illicit drug trafficking and the smuggling of arms by the Sri Lanka Tamil Terrorist Group in southern India and the coastal areas of northern Sri Lanka.

70. Several speakers pointed to the increased vulnerability of their countries to transit traffic in opium and heroin, particularly from the Golden Triangle. It was indicated that illicit drug trafficking, which had almost been completely eliminated after the founding of the People's Republic of China, had staged a comeback since 1980. The situation was deteriorating, particularly in Yunnan Province of China, which bordered on countries of the Golden Triangle. Thus, whereas 3,691 drug trafficking cases were detected in 1990, with seizures of 813 kgs of opium and 1,651 kgs of heroin, the first half of 1991 had resulted in a record 5,004 cases and the seizure of 1,259 kgs of opium and 1,179 kgs of heroin. Furthermore, drug trafficking syndicates operating in the area of the Golden Triangle had attempted to extend their operations further north to the vast area bordering on Yunnan Province of

China. Opium and heroin from the Golden Triangle were being distributed from Guangdong Province of China to other parts of the world via Hong Kong and Macau. Transit traffic has contributed to a re-emergence of, and an increase in, drug abuse in areas bordering the opium-producing countries. Opium and heroin abuse was spreading to areas of inland China as well as to urban areas. Heroin abuse had also made a comeback in Viet Nam. The Meeting was informed of increased illicit opium poppy cultivation, illicit processing of opium, trafficking and opium addiction in Viet Nam. It was reported that the eastern borders of the Islamic Republic of Iran were threatened by illicit traffic in opium and heroin from neighbouring countries. Most of the 16 tonnes of opium seized in the first nine months of 1991 had been intercepted in the three provinces located on the eastern borders of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

71. The observer for the Islamic Republic of Iran indicated that despite the large seizures of opium and heroin made in 1991, no illicit poppy cultivation or heroin laboratory had been discovered in his country due to the strict prohibition of poppy cultivation.

72. Cannabis, in various forms, continued to be one of the most abused drugs in the countries of the Asia and the Pacific region. Abuse of cannabis was reported to be on the rise in several countries. It was reported that abuse of cannabis and its derivatives, particularly herbal cannabis and cannabis resin, was growing among the 18-30 age group in Hong Kong. As in previous years cannabis-related offences accounted for almost all drug offences in Indonesia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the Philippines. Papua New Guinea had become an important source of illicit supply; illicit consighments of cannabis from Papua New Guinea had been intercepted in Hawaii and Australia. Cannabis was also a major drug of abuse in Japan. Some 190 kgs of cannabis herb were seized and 1,620 offenders apprehended in Japan in 1990. Most of the cannabis herb seized in Japan originated from Thailand and the Philippines. It was reported that 2.5 tonnes of cannabis were seized in Australia during 1990. The largest number of seizures of cannabis smuggled into Australia, a total of 1,929 kgs in 1990, were intercepted in the international mail system. Nepal continued to be a major source of cannabis herb and cannabis resin to India. Cannabis grows wild in the Nepalese foothills adjacent to the Indian border. Several speakers informed the Meeting of the measures taken by their Governments to address the problem of illicit cultivation, abuse and traffic in cannabis.

73. Large scale destruction of cannabis plants was reported by some speakers. This included the destruction of 3,000 plants valued at the equivalent of $US 4.5 million in the Port Macquarie (New South Wales) area of Australia in January 1991; some 175,000 plants were seized by the New Zealand police following the 1990-1991 airborne cannabis programme; and 9.5 million cannabis seedlings were seized in 1990 in the Philippines. As a result of effective law enforcement operations against illicit cannabis cultivation, the latter had tended to be more carefully concealed and protected than before in some countries. Such cultivation was often located in remote areas or in dense forest or grown alongside staple crops, thus making its detection and eradication very difficult.

74. Several speakers reported increased seizures, availability of and demand for cocaine in their countries. While the United States remained the major illicit market for cocaine, traffickers had been seeking alternative markets and targeting Western Europe and countries of the Asia and the Pacific region. Illicit traffic in and abuse of cocaine constituted a serious threat to several countries of the region, particularly Australia and Japan. The

Meeting was informed of increased availability of cocaine throughout Australia, with the exception of the Northern Territory. A record seizure of 66 kgs of cocaine had been made in 1990, with 63 kgs seized at airports. Record seizures of 68.8 kgs of cocaine, and the arrest of 115 offenders, were also made in Japan in 1990.

75. A significant number of seizures of cocaine, particularly in Australia, originated from the United States. The largest seizure (27.8 kgs), made at Sydney in February 1990, originated from Miami after transiting through Panama. Commercial aircraft from South America constituted the major direct cocaine supply route. The larger illicit consignments of cocaine intercepted in Australia had come directly from South America and were transported by couriers or in commercial cargo or personal luggage. Illicit supply of cocaine to Japan was reported to come directly from Latin America. In that connection, it was mentioned that cocaine seized in 1991, particularly at the New Tokyo International Airport, had come directly from Bolivia after transiting through Rio de Janeiro. It was reported that ships were being more frequently used to carry bulk quantities of cocaine. In this connection mention was made of the seizure of 33 kgs of cocaine in the port of Yokohama, in May 1990, on a Colombian cargo vessel.

76. The retail price for cocaine remained stable in Australia at the equivalent of $US 120-240 per gram. Similarly prices in the United States had stabilised at both wholesale and street levels, and purity was high in most parts of the United States. The view was expressed that the prohibitive cost of cocaine in Hong Kong (the equivalent of $US 225 per gram) compared with No. 4 heroin (the equivalent of $US 65 per gram) contributed to a low demand for cocaine in that country. However, several indicators pointed to an increase in the abuse of cocaine. The Meeting was informed of seizures of 5 kgs of cocaine in powder form and 3 kgs in liquid form during 1991 in Hong Kong.

77. Several speakers reported on the increased abuse and traffic in psychotropic substances in their countries. Particular mention was made of increased illicit manufacture and trafficking in amphetamine and methamphetamine. Amphetamine was the second most important drug of abuse in Australia. It was reported that in spite of publicity about the risk of transmission of hepatitis and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), abusers of amphetamines in Australia showed an alarming tendency towards intravenous injection. Amphetamine was also a popular drug of abuse in Thailand, particularly among manual workers and truck drivers.

78. Amphetamine from China, including Taiwan Province of China, was reported to transit to Japan and the Philipines. Joint Japanese-Hong Kong police operations in June 1991 had resulted in the seizure in Hong Kong and Tokyo of 80 kgs of "ice", a highly addictive form of methamphetamine. The substance was considered to have been manufactured in China. The Meeting was also informed of the seizure of 20 kgs of liquid methylamphetamine in Hong Kong where it was being further processed to manufacture a crystal-type methamphetamine to be sent to the Philippines.

79. Methamphetamine was the most popular drug of abuse in Japan and the Republic of Korea; it was the second most abused drug in the Philippines. Some 90 per cent of drug offences in Japan were related to trafficking and abuse of methamphetamine; 15,267 offenders were arrested and 279 kgs were seized in 1990. Most of the methamphetamine seized in Japan was manufactured in Taiwan Province of China. It was noted that as a result of stringent law enforcement

measures in the Republic of Korea, illicit manufacture of methamphetamine had been curtailed; demand for the substance and its precursor was currently being supplied principally from Taiwan Province of China. It was indicated that methamphetamine purchased in Taiwan Province of China for $US 5,000 per kilo was sold for $US 55,000 per kilo in the Republic of Korea. Large quantities of ephedrine hydrochloride, a precursor for methamphetamine, were smuggled into the Republic of Korea and major seizures were made during 1990 and 1991.

80. The Meeting was informed of increased importation of LSD during the past year in Australia and New Zealand. Most of the interceptions of LSD in Australia and New Zealand had been through the international mail system. Some 44,000 tablets of lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) were seized in New Zealand during 1990; a joint Police-Customs operation in January 1991 seized 35,000 tablets. The United States, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom were the main sources of LSD seized in New Zealand.

81. The Meeting was informed that, despite its restricted availability, abuse of MDMA, or "ectasy", had spread nationwide in the last 18 months and remained prevalent among younger people. Although illicit manufacture of methaqualone continued in India, despite the ban on licit manufacture in 1984, enforcement activities have been considerably stepped up, resulting in significantly larger seizures of illicit consignments bound for African countries in 1991 compared to previous years.

82. The Meeting was informed of the abuse of prescription drugs, often accompanied by alcohol and cannabis, particularly by young people in New Zealand. The drugs were obtained by burglary or forging of the prescription. Morphine sulphate tablets, prescribed for terminally ill cancer patients, were popular among intraveneous drug abusers. Cough mixtures containing codeine continued to be a popular drug of abuse in Brunei Darussalam; cough syrup containing ephedrine was subject to abuse in the Philippines.

83. Some speakers drew attention to the problem which had arisen as a result of the diversion of large quantities of psychotropic substances from the licit market, often by forging import permits. This had considerably increased the availability of psychotropic substances on the illicit market.

84. Several speakers referred to new initiatives undertaken in their countries to effectively monitor precursors and essential chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychoropic substances. Acetic anhydride had been placed under control in the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan. The manufacture and importing of ephedrine hydrochloride, a precursor of methamphetamine, was banned in the Republic of Korea.

85. Most speakers commented on the trafficking routes and the modus operandi adopted by drug traffickers. Several speakers pointed to the vulnerability of their countries to illicit traffic by sea. The sea routes along the western coastline of Malaysia with Thailand between the southern Thai town of Satun and the Malaysian island of Penang was one of the most preferred trafficking routes into Malaysia, particularly for bulk consignment of cannabis. Heroin from the Golden Crescent was smuggled through the maritime borders between India and Sri Lanka as well as by couriers through international airports. It was also noted that large quantities of illicit drugs were being smuggled in commercial consignments by air and sea. It was observed that many large maritime seizures had been found below the vessel's waterline and increasingly often in the rudder compartment of the vessel.

86. Several speakers indicated that south-east Asian heroin had followed several routes which included the following: Myanmar - through China - to Hong Kong or Macau for distribution; south-east Asia - Thailand - Taiwan Province of China - Hong Kong; Myanmar - India - Bangladesh; Myanmar - Malaysia - Singapore. The bulk of heroin reaching Australia was estimated to come from the Golden Triangle, with Thailand, China and Hong Kong as the major transit points. Opium, heroin and cannabis continued to be smuggled into and through Malaysia from the northern border with Thailand as well as by sea.

87. Different routes were used for the illicit traffic in cannabis depending on the source countries. With regard to Australia some 997 kgs of cannabis seized from a beach near Perth in February 1990 had been imported by yacht from Thailand; some 531 kgs found in a container at Melbourne docks were believed to have been imported from the Philippines; some 286 kgs seized at Ngir Island (Torres Strait) in October 1990 had been grown in Papua New Guinea.

88. There was general agreement that internal body concealment and false luggage compartments and linings continued to be among the most frequently used means of trafficking, particularly for heroin. It was reported that there was a marked decline in the detection of internal body concealment and a tendency for drug couriers to turn to the more traditional false-bottom suitcase concealment. Airline passengers of different nationalities, using body or luggage concealment, continued to be important couriers, particularly for heroin from south-east and south-west Asia. In Australia, most seizures of heroin had been made at airports with the largest quantities seized from commercial air cargo and luggage. Some 80 kgs out of a total 84 kgs of heroin seized in Australia during 1990 were seized at airports.

89. The international mail system was one of the most popular means used by traffickers to smuggle illicit drugs, particularly cocaine and LSD, into Australia and New Zealand. An emerging trend was the use of air courier services to transport illicit drugs. This system, a variation on the postal service, provided anonymity, allowed the use of accommodation addresses and ensured fast customs clearance. Some speakers observed that large consignments of illicit drugs, notably cannabis, psychotropic substances, and to a lesser extent, heroin, were being smuggled concealed among containerized legitimate cargo.

90. New methods of smuggling cocaine were highlighted. A number of recent cases had involved cocaine smuggled in suspension in various spirits, or impregnated in substances used for legitimate purposes.

91. The important role played by drug trafficking syndicates and organized criminal organizations in the illicit trafic of illicit drugs was highlighted by several speakers. International criminal associations based along ethnic lines and the use of the informal banking system peculiar to them continue to play a significant role in illicit drug traffic, particularly of heroin.

92. Nigerian nationals continued to play an important role as couriers and in organized drug trafficking criminal networks in the illicit traffic in heroin. Mention was made of an international Nigerian drug syndicate operating between the Golden Triangle, Europe and the United States using Singapore as a transit point. In view of the close monitoring of Nigerian couriers at entry/exit points Nigerian drug trafficking syndicates had attempted to recruit European nationals as couriers. Two Dutch nationals had been arrested in Singapore in this connection. Nigerian couriers were however still

transiting through India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Republic of Korea and Thailand; they accounted for the largest single group of drug couriers intercepted in India and Thailand.

93. Criminal motorcycle gangs continued to control the manufacture and distribution networks for amphetamine in Australia where manufacturing facilities of significant capacity were found in three eastern states; they had been previously concentrated in Victoria. Amphetamine and methamphetamine smuggled from Australia had also proved popular with motorcycle gangs in New Zealand.

94. Several participants referred to the increasing involvement of organized crime syndicates in the illicit drug traffic in the region. A Japanese organized crime syndicate, the Yakuza, was said to be one of the main causes for the increase in methamphetamine abuse in Japan. It was noted that South American cocaine cartels, in targeting Japan as a new market, were seeking to develop close ties with the Yakuza. Heroin traffickers have also attempted to use the Yakuza, which had began to be involved in the illicit traffic in cannabis.

95. Several speakers pointed to the factors which made them vulnerable to illicit traffic. The view was expressed that drug traffickers were using some countries of the region as transit points because of their weak detection capability and lack of specially trained personnel. The need for further training in drug detection techniques and drug identification was emphasized.

96. Several speakers informed the Meeting of measures taken by their Governments to cope with the deteriorating situation regarding illicit traffic and abuse in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Several speakers referred to the rapid spread of AIDS among drug abusers in their countries. This had led to the introduction of compulsory reporting and treatment of abusers. Several speakers pointed to new comprehensive approaches adopted by their Governments to address illicit demand through measures dealing with the prevention of drug abuse, treatment, rehabilitation and social integration of drug abusers. Some participants indicated that nation-wide campaigns to raise public awareness to the dangers of illicit traffic and drug abuse had been initiated.

97. Several speakers reported that specialised drug law enforcement and other units had been created in their countries to deal with drug trafficking offences. They also referred to the establishment of central units responsible for the adoption of policies and measures against illicit traffic and drug abuse and the coordination of all agencies concerned.

98. Investigations into money laundering operations had resulted in the tracing, freezing and confiscation of large sums of money and property derived from illicit traffic. This was considered as one of the most effective deterrents to illicit traffic in the region. These provisions, together with more stringent penal sanctions, which included life imprisonment and capital punishment for recidivism and serious drug trafficking offences, had contributed to reducing such offences.

99. Several speakers emphasized the paramount importance of regional cooperation in combating illicit drug trafficking and referred to bilateral and regional agreements or other forms of cooperation and reported on the positive results achieved. Some speakers emphasized the important role played by drug law enforcement liaison officers posted in strategic capitals of the

region. The Meeting was informed that a regional convention, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, had been adopted in 1990 by Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Streamlined working arrangements between the drug law enforcement authorities of the SAARC countries had been adopted, particularly on the reporting of drug offences. It was proposed that a drug monitoring desk should be established in Sri Lanka which would receive and store information on drug offenders in the SAARC region and that information and intelligence should be collated and disseminated to member States. One speaker expressed the view that cooperation in international drug control should be based on principles of mutual respect of sovereignty, territorial integrity, non-intervention in internal affairs, peaceful coexistence and mutual benefit.

100. Some speakers referred to the important role of HONLEA meetings in strengthening cooperation between drug law enforcement agencies in combating illicit drug traffic and in adopting effective countermeasures.

101. Several speakers expressed the strong support of their Governments for initiatives and arrangements to ensure closer cooperation between the countries bordering the Golden Triangle. Arrangements between China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Thailand covered, inter alia, the exchange of information, joint training and cross-border crop substitution and technical assistance programmes, to mutually reinforce the efforts of the individual governments in combating illicit traffic. UNDCP was commended for its role, initiatives and technical assistance in fostering cooperation between the countries bordering the Golden Triangle. The representatives of two of these countries indicated that their Governments were prepared to develop a concerted subregional plan to that effect and contribute in the implementation of joint comprehensive drug control projects with the assistance of UNDCP.

D. Near and Middle East

102. Several speakers expressed the great concern of their Governments at the escalation in illicit drug traffic and drug abuse in the region, which constituted a grave threat to national security, economic stability and social order. The region remained a major producer and market for opiates and cannabis and a growing illicit market for psychotropic substances, particularly fenetylline. Several speakers reported on increased seizures of illicit drugs, particularly opiates and cannabis, and the arrest and prosecution of a large number of persons for drug trafficking offences.

103. Some speakers pointed to the vulnerability of their countries to transit traffic in illicit drugs due to their geographical position in relation to producer countries (located on or close to their borders) and consumer countries in Western Europe and North America. The spillover of transit traffic, particularly traffic in heroin, had aggravated the drug abuse problem in some countries in the region. To that effect it was observed that the number of heroin abusers in Pakistan had increased from 5 000 in 1980 to over one million in 1988.

104. Traffic in opium was reported to have increased as a result of extensive illicit poppy cultivation. Large seizures were reported by the representatives of Afghanistan, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan. It was observed that there was a growing tendency to convert opium

into morphine and/or heroin in the illicit producing areas. The transborder trafficking of opium from Afghanistan and Pakistan to the Islamic Republic of Iran had continued as in previous years.

105. The recent upsurge in illicit traffic in morphine from Afghanistan to the Islamic Republic of Iran had continued unabated during the first half of 1991. The law enforcement authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran had intercepted more than 5 tonnes of morphine near the Iranian-Turkish border. Turkish authorities had also seized 137 kilogrammes. A significant new trend in 1990, which continued in the first six months of 1991, was the sharp decline in heroin and the increased availability of morphine on the illicit market.

106. Large quantities of heroin had been intercepted in Afghanistan (325 kgs in the first six months of 1991), Egypt (71 kgs in the first 10 months), India (535 kgs in the first nine months), the Islamic Republic of Iran (312 kgs in the first six months), Pakistan (1,528 kgs in the first nine months and a single seizure of 3.25 tonnes in October 1991) and Turkey (1,466 kgs in the first 10 months). The observer for the International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO/Interpol) indicated that, similar to opium and morphine, heroin was mainly produced along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border. The illicit traffic in heroin was huge in volume, violent in nature and worth billions of United States dollars. In spite of the substantial local consumption and effective law enforcement action that had led to large scale seizures, important quantities were available for transportation to Europe through the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey along the Balkan route, as well as by sea and air routes direct from the region. It was estimated that during the first half of 1991, Europe had received 4 tonnes of heroin from the region of the Sub-Commission, accounting for 90 per cent of the heroin found in the illicit market there. About 80 per cent of the heroin was transported along the Balkan route. Lebanon was also emerging as a significant source of heroin, with heroin originating from Lebanon accounting for 46 seizures in Canada, Cyprus, France, Germany, Spain, Switzerland and the United States of America. Egypt appeared to have become a major target for heroin traffickers. In this connection it was indicated that 60 per cent of heroin seizures in Egypt were effected at the international airport at Cairo, concealed in body cavities of couriers originating from the region of the Sub-Commission in transit to other destinations.

107. The Meeting was informed of efforts to implement development programmes to replace or eradicate illicit poppy cultivation in Afghanistan, Egypt and Pakistan.

108. The border between India and Pakistan continued to be extremely vulnerable to illicit traffic in opiates and cannabis resin. It was observed that as a result of stringent law enforcement measures in Pakistan (Baluchistan) and the Islamic Republic of Iran, traffickers were shifting part of their operations through the coastal areas of Baluchistan.

109. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran indicated that the eastern borders of his country were threatened by illicit traffic in opium, heroin and morphine from two neighbouring countries which had become the centre for illicit cultivation and production of opiates, as well as cannabis, thus ensuring a sustained flow of illicit narcotic drugs through the territory of his country. Over 16 tonnes of opium had been seized in the first nine months of 1991 in provinces located on the eastern borders of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The representative from the Islamic Republic of Iran

indicated that despite the large seizures of opium, morphine and heroin made in 1991, no illicit poppy cultivation or heroin laboratory had been discovered in his country due to the strict prohibition of poppy cultivation.

110. Several speakers referred to the urgent need to adopt comprehensive measures to address the illicit cultivation of the opium poppy in the region. The representative of Afghanistan informed the Meeting of the eradication of 50 hectares of illicit opium poppy and cannabis. He indicated that large areas of illicit cultivation of the opium poppy and cannabis were under the control of insurgent groups. He called on the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and donor Governments to assist his Government in elaborating and implementing programmes to address illicit poppy cultivation in his country. One speaker expressed the view that satellites should be used to identify the extent of illicit cultivation and to monitor action taken by Governments in implementing eradication programmes.

111. Cannabis and its derivatives continued to be one of the most abused drugs in the region of the Sub-Commission. Abuse was reported to be rampant and traffic widespread. Cannabis grew wild in some countries of the region and was cultivated in others. The representative of the Secretariat indicated that seizures of cannabis, which had been dropping in 1986 and 1987, had increased by 20 per cent in 1991. The observer for ICPO/Interpol indicated that major seizures had been reported by India (44 tonnes), Lebanon (153 tonnes) and Pakistan (129 tonnes, which included a single seizure of 40 tonnes). He observed that the Gulf States, particularly Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, were seriously threatened by illicit traffic from Afghanistan and Pakistan. Egypt, Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic continued to be adversely affected by illicit traffic from Lebanon. Law enforcement authorities in Egypt had seized 10 tonnes of cannabis resin in the first ten months of 1991, compared with 4.3 tonnes in the same period last year. The representative of Egypt reported on large-scale destruction of cannabis plants in his country. The Mekran coast of Pakistan and illegal seaports in Lebanon were reported to be the embarcation points of large consignments of cannabis seized in North America and Europe.

112. Several speakers reported on the increased abuse and traffic in psychotropic substances. Fenetylline, which was often found on the illicit market under the brand name Captagon, continued to cause concern to authorities in the Arabian Peninsula and Gulf States and important quantities, allegedly manufactured in Europe, had been seized in Jordan (57,400 tablets) and Saudi Arabia (510,420 tablets). It was also indicated that illicit clandestine manufacture of methaqualone had continued in India despite a ban on manufacture since 1984. Some 4 tonnes had been seized in 1991, compared with about 2 tonnes in 1990. Illicit consignments of methaqualone were being shipped to South Africa through East African countries like Botswana, Kenya, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

113. The representative of Turkey indicated that psychotropic substances seized in his country were mostly manufactured in certain West European countries. He expressed regret that six industrialized countries which were major manufacturers of psychotropic substances were not yet parties to the Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971. He pointed to efforts undertaken under the aegis of the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe, of which his country was a member, to encourage these States to take the necessary steps to adhere to that Convention.

114. The observer for ICPO/Interpol indicated that cocaine had been seized in several countries of the region. While the abuse pattern was not well-defined it already constituted a serious problem in Lebanon, where cocaine was considered as the illicit drug of preference. He indicated that there was a regular traffic between Lebanon and South America, particularly Brazil, with citizens of South American countries who were of Lebanese origin playing a major role in such traffic. He noted that the seizure by Syrian forces in March 1991 of important quantities of cocaine and precursors for processing coca paste confirmed the existence of clandestine laboratories for processing cocaine in that country.

115. Several speakers referred to new initiatives undertaken in their countries to effectively monitor precursors and essential chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychoropic substances. Acetic anhydride has been placed under control in the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan and prohibited in selected border areas of India. The Meeting was informed of new comprehensive legislation in Pakistan which would enable the Goverment to effectively control and monitor the manufacture, import, distribution and use of precursors frequently used in the manufacture of illicit drugs.

116. Most speakers commented on the trafficking routes and the modus operandi adopted by drug traffickers. There was general agreement that internal body concealment and false luggage compartments and linings continued to be among the most frequently used means of trafficking, particularly for the illicit traffic of heroin by African couriers. One speaker indicated that large consignments of illicit drugs, particularly heroin, were being smuggled in containers, concealed among legitimate cargo. Airline passengers of different nationalities, using body or luggage concealment, continued to be important couriers, particularly for heroin.

117. Nigerian and other African nationals continued to play an important role as couriers and in organized drug trafficking criminal networks in the illicit traffic in heroin. The Meeting was informed of the arrest of 23 Nigerian and 12 Tanzanian nationals in Pakistan. It was indicated that following the close monitoring of African couriers at entry/exit points, Nigerian drug trafficking syndicates had attempted to recruit European nationals as couriers.

118. The important role played by drug trafficking syndicates and organized criminal organizations in the illicit drug traffic was highlighted by several speakers. They pointed to the increasing organization and structuring of trafficking groups into syndicates or corporations. Furthermore, traffickers were better equipped and frequently armed and had considerable financial support. It was indicated that illicit drug trafficking in the region had, for all practical purposes, ceased to be an individual enterprise.

119. Several speakers informed the Meeting of more effective law enforcement measures taken by their Governments to cope with the deteriorating illicit traffic situation. Positive results had been achieved through improved use of intelligence. Strict law enforcement measures in India had led to a significant increase in the number of drug seizures and persons arrested and a decline in the volume of seized drugs. Several speakers referred to the new programmes adopted by their Governments to address illicit demand through measures dealing with the prevention of drug abuse, treatment, rehabilitation and social integration of drug abusers. Campaigns to raise public awareness of the dangers of illicit traffic and drug abuse had yielded positive results.

These measures, together with new legislative provisions for more stringent penal sanctions, seemed to have contributed to reducing drug-related offences in some countries.

120. Several speakers emphasized the paramount importance of regional cooperation in combating illicit drug trafficking and referred to bilateral and regional agreements or other forms of cooperation and reported on the positive results achieved. Some speakers emphasized the importance of and need for closer cooperation between producer, transit and consumer countries. Referring to positive results achieved following the establishment of the border commission between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran considered that such mechanisms for cross-border cooperation should be extended to all the countries of the region in order to facilitate joint law enforcement operations against traffickers. He indicated that his Government was prepared to work closely with the Governments of Afghanistan and Pakistan, under the aegis of the United Nations, in developing projects and undertaking joint operations to eradicate the illicit cultivation of the opium poppy, and to destroy the centres used for the processing of opium as well as the strongholds of drug trafficking groups.

121. The view was expressed that the prevailing situation in Eastern and central Europe might contribute to an increase in the illicit manufacture of psychotropic substances which could be diverted to the region of the Sub-Commission. These developments had resulted in conditions conducive to the flow of illicit drugs, particularly heroin, from the region of the Sub-Commission along the Balkan route to Western Europe.

III. COORDINATION OF DRUG LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

122. In response to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 4(XXXIV) concerning coordination of international and regional drug law enforcement training, the subsidiary bodies of the Commission which met in 1991 established working groups for the purpose of developing a drug law enforcement training strategy for each region. The subsidiary bodies identified the needs and priorities for drug law enforcement training for each region and proposed mechanisms for their implementation. The reports adopted by the subsidiary bodies regarding drug law enforcement training are available from the Training Unit, Technical Services Division, UNDCP.

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Thirty-fifth session
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Item 3(b) of the provisional agenda*

GENERAL DEBATE

EXAMINATION OF THE WORLD SITUATION WITH RESPECT TO DRUG ABUSE, INCLUDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL PROGRAMME OF ACTION

Draft agenda of the ministerial level meeting of the Sub-Commission on Illicit Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East**

Note by the Secretariat

Addendum

1. In resolution 1991/42 of 21 June 1991, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to convene a meeting at the ministerial level in the Near and Middle East to enhance the effectiveness of regional cooperation in matters relating to illicit drug traffic and drug abuse. In that resolution the Council requested the ministerial level meeting to consider the early implementation of the recommendations arising from the Sub-Commission at its twenty-eighth session, particularly in respect of transit routes, including the Balkan route.

2. The Sub-Commission, at its twenty-eighth session, considered the issue of the ministerial level meeting and requested the secretariat to prepare a draft agenda for that meeting for consideration by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its thirty-fifth session (E/CN.7/1992/3, paragraphs 20-23). The following agenda has been prepared in response to that request.

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* E/CN.7/1992/1
** This document has not been formally edited.

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DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting.

2. Election of officers.

3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

4. Implementation of the recommendations of the twenty-eighth session of the Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East.

5. Measures to enhance the effectiveness of regional cooperation in drug abuse control, including:

   (a) Suppression of illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in and through the region including measures to be taken against illicit traffic by vessels, aircraft and vehicles;

   (b) Measures to be taken against the effects of money derived from, used in, or intended for use in illicit drug trafficking, illegal financial flows and illegal use of the banking system;

   (c) Measures to suppress illicit cultivation of the opium poppy and other narcotic plants;

   (d) Strengthening of judicial and legal systems, including law enforcement;

   (e) Measures to monitor substances frequently used for the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

   (f) Law enforcement training in the region of the Sub-Commission.

6. Other matters.

7. Adoption of the report.